

**THE MINUTES
FOR THE JANUARY 12, 2010
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF NORTHPORT
MEETING AT 6:00 P.M.**

The Public Hearing on the 2010-2011 Budget was held at Northport Village Hall.

Present: Mayor Doll, Trustees Kehoe, Maline and McMullen, Village Clerk Donna Koch,
Absent: Trustee Tobin, Superintendant Joseph Correia, and Village Attorney James Matthews.

The Board held an executive session starting at 5:30 PM.

On the motion of Trustee Tobin and seconded by Trustee Maline the Board moved into executive session. 5:30 PM.

On the motion of Trustee Kehoe and seconded by Trustee Maline the Board moved out of executive session 6:00 PM.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

PUBLIC HEARING(S)

Mayor Doll asked the Village Clerk to read the notice of Public Hearing to wit:

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: That a public hearing of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Northport will be held on January 12, 2010 at 6:00 PM in the Northport Village Hall 224 Main Street to consider the 2010-2011 tentative budget.

On the motion of Trustee Maline and seconded by Trustee Kehoe the Public Hearing was open: 6:05 PM.

Mayor Doll opened the meeting by stating the Village started the preparation for the Budget back in September. Initially, that consisted of reports and meetings with department heads. Our first workshop was held December 8, 2009 and continued till December 18, 2009. We worked hard on it and I'm sorry to say and it is unfortunate, that we are facing a 6.88% tax increase. After going through the whole process this is the best we can do without cutting into services we provide to the people of this Village. Last week we held an informational meeting and it was suggested we abolish the police Department.

Village Consultant Len Marchese explained to the audience the costs if the Village chooses to eliminate the Police Department. Stating on an average home assessment of 4000 a year that Suffolk County Police districts outside the Village the cost is about thirteen hundred and seventy nine dollars (\$1379.) Based on the Village assessment

the average homeowner pays about eighteen hundred dollars (\$1800.) so it is a difference of about four hundred dollars (\$400.) in addition to that if Northport Police Department was eliminated they would go to Suffolk County, the Northport PBA agreement does not have what's called an enhancement retirement incentive. The Village would have to make a one shot payment to bring them up to par with Suffolk County Police Department of almost one point nine million dollars. Trustee Tobin explained we would also lose revenues.

Mayor Doll explained in ball park figures the Village spends 4 million dollars on the Northport Police Department. If we got rid of them we would have to pay Suffolk County three point five million dollars every year plus we would lose the three hundred thousand dollars in sales tax money plus we would have to one point eight million dollars. Those are the numbers. The Village is running at the minimal force.

Trustee Tobin stated we are all very upset at looking at a 6.8 % tax increase. We went through the budget line by line and we realized there's nothing more we can cut unless we start cutting out significant services and departments. The Village continues to negotiate with the unions. At last week's Board meeting we talked about eliminating the Police, eliminating the dispatch, eliminate the fire department, and eliminate the highway. I am not recommending we do any of those things. We will continue to work to look for every savings we can make.

Treasurer Elissa Iannicello gave a power point presentation on the Budget going over revenues and expenditures.

Victor Howard of Ocean Ave. had several questions regarding the proposed budget: he questioned why assessments were down. Village Attorney James Matthews explained that several large asset properties have had their assessments challenged and reduced. Mr. Howard questioned what PILOTS were. Treasurer Iannicello explained they were Payment in Lieu of Taxes. They are paid by Keyspan and National Grid. The next question was parking meter fees, the proposed is several thousand dollars higher than this year's actual. Trustee Kehoe replied that the meter fees were raised in 2009 but the meters were not adjusted until August of that year so it is expected to raise more revenue this year. Mr. Howard felt since the beach and dock expensive are not re-couped in the revenues. Mr. Howard suggested swim at your own risk and use the dock at your own risk.

Sherry Pavone stated getting rid of the dockmasters would create a liability. Yes, \$2.00 sounds cheap but when you have a 25 foot boat it can add up.

Mr. Howard questions the new Sewer Service charge. Trustee Tobin explained the proposed legislation is to raise \$200,000. with a user fee. Lee Holcomb questioned how many residents were on the system Trustee Tobin replied roughly 930 connections. Trustee McMullen has researched if the Village could do a lay off, or a lag pay, or do a 4 day work week. The Village is self insured for unemployment. Based on the research of one employee the Village would be required to pay roughly ninety dollars a day which is a thirty dollar difference from their normal pay. All the Village would be saving is thirty dollars a week. If the Village tried to get down to last year's tax increase of 3% the Village would have to let go six employees. Part time people would have to go first so then it would be two to three of them to come up with the full time rate. So you would be looking at laying off of 9 to 10 employees.

Mayor Doll stated we (the Village) got to 6.88 without cutting services. Any other cuts will be in Police, Village Hall, Highway, Court. We are constrained in what we can do because each of those departments is covered under labor agreements.

One area the Village is looking into is abolishing the Northport Court system. If the Village considers this it could be done by a referendum vote at the next election.

Rita Spracino, stated the Village needs to look at all cost saving measures. She felt raising dock fees is a good idea.

Sherry Pavone, felt that all events in the Village should contribute to the costs.

Sherry Pavone, stated that once you get rid of a Police Department you cannot get them back.

Dave Owen stated that his taxes would go up roughly two hundred dollars. He can't even take his wife and a friend for dinner for less than two hundred dollars. Northport is a fabulous place to live and he would write the check this evening. At the age of 77 he has had to go back to work and it's all worth it.

Trustee Tobin announced that the Village still maintains a triple A bond rating and the Village is nowhere near that threshold.

Trustee Kehoe felt there was still more work to be done and the Village would not be voting on the budget tonight.

On the motion of Trustee Kehoe and seconded by Trustee Tobin the Public Hearing was closed.

No other business was conducted this evening.

RESOLUTIONS:

The following resolution was put on hold until the Friday January 15, 2010 meeting.

RESOLUTION 2010 - 12 ~ APPROVAL OF 2010 -2011 BUDGET

WHEREAS: The Board of Trustees has met at the time and place specified in the notice of hearing on the tentative budget and heard all persons desiring to be heard therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: That the tentative budget for the fiscal year March 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011, as hereinafter set forth is hereby adopted and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That there is hereby levied a tax of \$9,222,760.00 for said fiscal year, to which said budget is applicable upon the last completed assessment roll, and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Village Clerk is authorized to extend and carry out upon the tax roll the amount to be collected from each of the persons named thereon.

A RESOLUTION FOR AN EXECUTIVE SESSION: if necessary, for personnel and/or litigation matters.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees will be Tuesday January 19th at 6:00 PM. HELD AT THE NORTHPORT AMERICAN LEGION HALL 7 WOODSIDE AVE.

Adjourned: 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. Koch,
Village Clerk